

At a time when we are fighting a war against terrorism and hatred, we have a golden opportunity to show the world that we celebrate our diversity; that every American citizen or everyone who visits here will not be in danger because of their national origin or religious faith; that we will not allow these acts of terror to divide us; that we are one Nation under God, indivisible and we will stay that way.

SENATE CONTINUES TO STALL ON ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the Nation's economists have confirmed what thousands of American workers have already feared, that our economy is in a recession.

House Republicans have passed an economic security package to create new jobs and help unemployed workers. But the stalling economy continues to be in jeopardy because the Senate continues to stall economic security legislation.

People are hurting, unemployment is rising, and now we have proof that the economy is in recession. What more does the Senate Democratic leadership need? The American people deserve action on this right now. The Senate Democrat leadership failed to push through a strictly partisan version of a stimulus plan on November 14.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Senate Democrat leadership to stop stalling and send President Bush an economic stimulus package that creates jobs and helps affected Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair would remind Members they should avoid urging action or inaction by the Senate.

WORK YET UNDONE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about the work yet undone, the work this Congress, this House needs to complete. I believe it is imperative that we pass the Conyers Hate Crimes Prevention Act with 199 cosponsors, and I join my colleagues in reminding us of the values of this country of equality and justice.

This past week I commemorated and celebrated Ramadan with members of my community, the Muslim community. They should be protected just as anyone else, and terrorism should not divide us. Muslim and Arab lives have been lost, and they have been intimidated. We should pass this legislation.

We also announced today that we are in a recession, something we know about and that does not make for a happy holiday. We need an economic stimulus package that addresses the unemployed workers of America; in my own State, Enron, which is about to merge with another company, which I encourage to save the opportunities for workers and the resources that America needs. Maybe upwards of 3,000 employees will be laid off.

Mr. Speaker, we need an economic stimulus package. We need to pass hate crimes legislation, and this Congress needs to finish its unfinished business.

PROHIBIT HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That is why we have government. We have government to protect these rights, and more importantly, the rights of those who are the most innocent and the most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, on July 31 the House passed the bipartisan Weldon-Stupak Human Cloning Prohibition Act by a large majority. Advanced Cell Technologies of Massachusetts threatens human lives; and if government does not act, we are co-conspirators.

To produce one live cloned sheep, Dolly, scientists created 277 sheep embryos; 276 died in different stages of development or were discarded. The head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Illinois, said that human cloning does not treat any disease but turns human reproduction into a manufacturing process by which human beings are mass produced to preset qualifications. It is time for the other legislative body to move and prohibit human cloning.

PASS HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a time when we are waging war around the world against terrorism, oppression and hate, we must be sure that we are sending a clear message at home to all Americans, especially our children, that hate crimes will not be tolerated, period.

President Bush has repeatedly called on Americans to resist all acts of bigotry and hate; and yet since the terrorist attacks on September 11, thousands of assaults have been reported across the country against people of

South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh backgrounds. Some of those occurred in my district, one of the most diverse districts in the Nation.

The Conyers bill, H.R. 1343, is the right antidote. It is not just talk; it is action. We must elevate the status of hate crimes within Federal law to ensure that the punishment fits the seriousness of the crime. Congress has given law enforcement new tools to fight terrorism, and we must not delay in adding new tools to fight hate here at home.

BAN HUMAN CLONING

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, 88 percent of the American people think that human cloning is immoral. Accordingly, this representative body overwhelmingly outlawed human cloning this July. Many of us are outraged to learn that a bio-technical firm has gone forward and made significant gains in the area of cellular-level human cloning.

Mr. Speaker, I must say today that amoral bio-technical firms ought not to lead America as America leads the world in medical ethics. Rather, America ought to be informed by history, by conscience, by history and by our laws and by this institution.

Our Chaplain spoke today about the Tower of Babel that was built on pride, of technology rising to the skies that destroyed their people. I submit that the creation of nascent human life, for research or vanity, is such a tower that threatens to tear at the fabric of our society and our laws and our very civilization. It must be banned.

PASS HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and 199 cosponsors in support of a Federal hate crimes statute. We must show the world that we are not engaged in a war on Islam, but instead are forming our laws to reflect the fact that we are building the most diverse country in the history of the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is said that a single act of violence should not be subject to different levels of punishment. But the fact is that we often enhance punishment due to the motivations of the perpetrator, and racial and religious hatred is one motivation that deserves enhanced punishment. We also adjust punishment when the perpetrator causes a greater harm; and hate crimes not only hurt the physical victim, but also tear at the fabric of our society.

There was a hate crime in my district 2 years ago. The Jewish Community Center was invaded and children